

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /099 W

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O 270930Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 187

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THEHAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRA GATT

SUBJECT: MTN: US/EC DISPUTE ON AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR

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REF: A. GENEVA 290; B. EC BRUSSELS 6377

1. SUMMARY: IN PRIVATE MEETING WITH U.S. REPS TO GENEVA 7 PLUS 7 MEETING, EC COMMISSION REPS RECONFIRMED EC HARDLINE ON HAVING SEPARATE AND EXCLUSIVE GROUP FOR ALL MTN AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS, REPORTED REFTELS. U.S. SIDE STATED PRESENT EC POSITION UNACCEPTABLE AND STRESSED NEED FOR SOME FLEXIBILITY ON PART OF EC. BOTH SIDES SAW ISSUE AS NOT RESOLVABLE EXCEPT AT HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVELS, GIVEN CURRENT POSITIONS, AND AGREED THAT SETTLEMENT HIGHLY DESIRABLE WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS TO AVOID BLOWUP OVER FUTURE COURSE OF MTN AT 11 FEB MEETING OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING 24 JAN MEETING OF GENEVA 7 PLUS 7 GROUP OF MTN (REPORTED SEPTEL), EC COMMISSION REPS ABBOTT AND DUGIMONT AT THEIR REQUEST MET WITH U.S. REPS TO EXPLORE U.S. FLEXIBILITY ON QUESTION OF SEPARATE AND EXCLUSIVE GROUP TO HANDLE ALL AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS IN MTN. ABBOTT STATED EC POSITION ON THIS QUESTION HAD NOT RPT NOT CHANGED SINCE BLOWUP AT FIRST TNC MEETING OCT 1973, THAT POSITION HAD BEEN DECIDED IN EC POLITICAL "STRATOSPHERE" AND COULD ONLY BE CHANGED AT THAT LEVEL. NEVERTHELESS, POINTING TO EC STATEMENT AT FEB 1974 TNC MEETING ADOPTING PREPARATORY WORK PROGRAM, HE ARGUED EC NOT INSISTING ON TREATING AGRICULTURE "IN ISOLATION" FROM REST OF NEGOTIATIONS, EC WANTED AGRICULTURE TO MOVE FORWARD "IN PARALLEL" WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON INDUSTRIAL SIDE AND WOULD NOT INSIST ON RECIPROCITY ONLY WITHIN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

3. IN ANSWER TO MENTION OF POLITICAL BASIS FOR EC POSITION, U.S. REPS CITED CONGRESSIONAL, PRIVATE SECTOR, AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH RESOLVE, AS REFLECTED IN SEC. 103 OF TRADE ACT THAT AGRICULTURE NOT BE HELD ASIDE IN MTN. SEPARATE GROUP PROPOSED BY EC WAS OBVIOUSLY EXPLICIT MECHANISM FOR ISOLATING AGRICULTURE, REGARDLESS OF EC GENERAL STATEMENTS TO CONTRARY. IT WAS HARD TO SEE HOW EC APPROACH GAVE ANY ASSURANCE OF PARALLEL MOVEMENT ON AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY, NOR WAS IT CLEAR HOW ASSERTIONS OF PARALLEL PROGRESS COULD EVEN BE VERIFIED. ON NTB'S IN PARTICULAR, WHILE IT COULD BE FORESEEN THAT NEGOTIATION OF GENERAL SOLUTIONS COULD MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR WHATEVER SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS MIGHT BE DISCOVERED, NOTION OF PARALLELISM IN SEPARATE AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY GROUPS WAS NOT IREDIBLE. U.S. SIDE WONDERED HOW BALANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS WITH SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL CONCERNS COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT SINGLE FUNCTIONAL NEGOTIATING GROUP.

4. ABBOTT RESPONDED THAT BALANCING WOULD BE AN INTERNAL EC PROBLEM AND THAT POSITIONS TAKEN BY EC REPS TO SEPARATE GROUPS WOULD REFLECT THAT RECONCILIATION. THIS WAS BUREAUCRATIC FACT OF LIFE IN EC SYSTEM. HE ADMITTED APPARENT INCONSISTENCEY OF GENERAL EC REASSURANCES AND SPECIFIC NEGOTIATING MECHANISM PROPOSED.

5. U.S. REPS URGED NEED FOR EC DEVELOP SOME MEASURE OF FLEXIBILITY ON THIS ISSUE. BOTH SIDES AGREED CURRENT POSITIONS INDICATE HIGHEST LEVEL POLITICAL ATTENTION NEEDED IMMEDIATE IF DISAGREEMENT TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE FEB 11 TNC MEETING, WHERE FUTURE COURSE OF MTN WILL BE CHARTED BY PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS. ABBOTT PROMISED IMMEDIATE REPORT OF MEETING TO HIJZEN AND OTHER SENIOR COMMISSION OFFICIALS. HE SAID COMMISSION WILL STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH ON SUBJECT WITH U.S. IN BRUSSELS AND WASHINGTON.

6. IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN MTN GENEVA REPS, WHO WILL BE TALKING TO EC COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS MONDAY, AUSTRALIANS CONFIRMED THEIR OPPOSITION TO EC AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL. THEY WOULD BE WILLING, HOWEVER, TO SEE SOME KING OF AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE IN MTN AS LONG AS (1) SUBGROUPS ESTABLISHED FOR KEY COMMODITIES AND (2) NEGOTIATIONS ON REST OF AGRICULTURE COULD BE LINKED FROM BEGINNING IN SOME MEANINGFUL WAY WITH OTHER PARTS OF MTN.
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